

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the torsionally stiff connection between the control element and the shaft portion comprises a press fit.

5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the shaft has a side which is flattened in the longitudinal direction of the shaft, and the control element bearing against said flattened side with a flat side and being fixable thereto in torsionally stiff relationship.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An insert comprising:

a plurality of openings arranged in a row, each fitted with a flap device for influencing the flow cross-section in said plurality of openings wherein each flap device comprises a control element arranged in each opening,

a plurality of shaft portion portions, one said shaft portion between each two neighboring control elements, each said plurality of shaft portion portions having a first and second end and each of said plurality of shaft portions comprising a cranked configuration in a region between the first and second ends,

a recess in said insert positioned between said first and second ends of each said shaft portion to thereby provide a plurality of recesses, each said recess ~~capable of engaging~~

accommodating a connecting means for securing said insert to a portion of an internal combustion engine, and

means for mounting each of the shaft portions rotatably with respect to the openings, and means operable to fix ~~the~~ each of two neighboring control elements in torsionally stiff relationship to the first and second end of the respective shaft portion between each of said two neighboring control elements.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein each of said control elements comprise a first and second sub-element being in torsionally stiff engagement with each other at the respective end of the respective sub-element which is remote from the shaft portion, the connection between the sub-elements having a play in the axial direction of the respective shaft portion, and wherein the connection between the control element and the shaft portion comprises a press fit.

15. (Previously Presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein the control element of each flap device comprises a first and a second sub-element being in torsionally stiff engagement with each other at the respective end of the respective sub-element which is remote from the shaft portion, the connection between the sub-elements having a play in the axial direction of the respective shaft portion and wherein the shaft portion and the control element are formed in one piece.

16. (Previously Presented) An insert as set forth in claim 12, wherein said recess is capable of engaging connecting means for connecting said insert to a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine.

17. (Cancelled)